

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 10-15, and 19-26 were pending in the application. In response to the final office action, applicants have amended claims 4-6, 13-15, and 22-25. Claims 1-3, 10-12, and 19-21 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 4-6, 13-15, and 22-26 now remain pending for reconsideration.

Claims 4, 13 and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4, 13 and 22 have been amended to become independent claims including the features of the prior base claims and any intervening claims in order to put those claims in allowable form, since the Examiner has indicated that they contain allowable subject matter. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend on newly amended claim 4, claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend on newly amended claim 13, and claims 23-25 have been amended to depend on newly amended claim 22. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully point out that the prior art rejections are now moot. Since claims 4, 13 and 22 have been amended to be in independent form and since the Examiner has indicated that these claims contain allowable subject matter, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable and respectfully request that the amendment to the claims be entered in order to move this application to allowance.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to initiate an interview with the undersigned by calling 815-885-1390 if the Examiner believes that such an interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0221 to cover any necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

August 13, 2007
Date

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